(e) the measures taken or to be taken by Government to coordinate various-departments to popularise the use of Bio-fertilisers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) The Standing Parliamentary Committee for this Ministry has observed that the achievements in Biotechnology in some field have not reached common man. The demonstration projects of DBT are meant to validate the technology packages and carry out experimental field trials. Training programmes are also organised for awareness building.

The objectives of the technology development and demonstration project for biofertilizers was mainly to develop the technology and to demonstrate the efficacy of biofertilizers for various soils. The popularisation and use of biofertilizers comes under the purview of State Agricultural Departments in different states. This programme has linkages with the State Agricultural Departments which are involved in the field trials for demonstrating the efficacy of biofertilizers. It is expected that after successful demonstration, the State Agricultural Deptts. will take up for the use of appropriate biofertilizers in their states.

(c) to (e) The main recommendations of the Standing Committee are for expanding technology transfer, more demonstration activities, quality control and ensuring that results reach the common man. Collaborative efforts have been initiated with the concerned Ministries in this regard through joint efforts, in identifying, implementing and monitoring of programmes. The suggestions made by the Committee are being implemented accordingly. A mission mode project for technology development for biofertilizers has been approved. Research and development, technology refinement, validation, quality control, limited demonstration, training and awareness building are various components of the project on biofertilizers which is to be implemented on a multi-institutional basis.

Outstanding problems of Research Scientists and Research Fellows

1525. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Scientists and Research Fellows have been writing to the Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office regarding their outstanding problems for nearly a year or so without getting any redress;

(b) whether they presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 10th January, 1994;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Association has launched an agitation which is likely to be intensified in the coming days;

(d) what are the main demands of the Research Associates, Research Officers, PDF's Scientist Fellows and Pool Scientists; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Research Scientists and Research Fellows have been writing to the Ministry regarding their outstanding problems.

(c) The Association has informed that it was launching an action plan.

(d) The main demands relate to treating them as regular employees of their respective institutes with all benefits, suitable unemployment allowance, suitable jobs for Ph.D. degree holders with research experience and job guarantee for those who qualify UGC-CSIR national tests.

(e) The Government has given due consideration to the demands.

1526 (*Transferredto 9th, March 1994*

Deep Seismic Sounding Technology

1527. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the technology known as 'Deep Seismic Sounding, developed by Dr. K.L. Kaila of N.G.R.I, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have any proposal to appoint Dr. K.L. Kaila as a scientific expert/advisor; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No such technology has been developed by the said Scientist of National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post-Earthquake tremors in Latur

1528. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how many times tremors—both mild and severe—were recorded in the region after the recent devastating earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra);

(b) whether any loss of life and property was caused as a consequence thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) A total of 173 aftershocks have been recorded in Latur till 22-2-94 by temporary Seismic network established in the region soon after the earthquake. Out of them, 171 were mild and 2 were of moderate strength. There was no severe earthquake.

(b) and (c) According to Press Reports only one person died due to stampede caused by panic.

Raising investments in the field of Science and technology

1529. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Science Congress Association has urged Government to raise the investment in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are laging behind in the field of science and technology; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to come forward in the fields of science nd technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI). (a) to (d) The Indian Science Congress was held in Jaipur between 3—8 January, 1994 under the auspices of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). The recommendations of the Science Congress Sessions are presently at the drafting stage and have not yet been received by the Government of India as per the normal practice, ISCA sends the final recommendations to the Government which, in turn, further process them through the Inter-ministerial Task Force constituted for the purpose for taking appropriate action by the concerned Departments/Agencies.

The salient aspects of the action taken by Government are also reported in the next Session of the Science Congress through the release of the Task Force Report followed by a Session thereon.

Underground Nuclear Explosion behind Latur earthquake

1530. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to scientific study conducted by a group of scientists, the recent earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra) was due to an underground nuclear explosion;

(b) if so what are the details of the study conducted by the scientists stating the base of which the conclusion has been arrived at;

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to predict earthquake ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) According to Press Reports, scientists from Delhi and Shivaji Universities have made this conclusion from their studies.